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NEWS RELEASES

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CY03-083

LOCAL STUDENTS HELP LAUNCH GRAFFITI WIPE OUT WEEK

This morning three students from Bishop Pocock School officially launched Graffiti Wipe Out Week by demonstrating how a little paint goes a long way. Donning painter's smocks the students "wiped out" the graffiti on the skating shack behind their school. In attendance were representatives from the Graffiti Reduction Task Force (GRTF), Saskatoon City Council, the Safer City Committee, and 200 students from Bishop Pocock School.

Running from June 2nd to 8th, 2003, Graffiti Wipe Out Week is a public education and awareness campaign regarding the problems associated with graffiti crime, and provides information about the programs available to help people remove graffiti in their communities.

Under the umbrella of the Safer City Committee, the GRTF implements projects aimed at significantly reducing the instances of graffiti vandalism in Saskatoon. "The official proclamation of Graffiti Wipe Out Week ties together all the efforts of the GRTF while keeping graffiti removal top of mind," says Judith Ryan, Executive Director of the John Howard Society, and member of the GRTF. "Instances of graffiti crime create an unsafe perception within the community."

Schools, community groups, associations, and businesses are encouraged to participate by staging their own wipe out activities. Available from the Community Services Department, the Graffiti Wipe Out Week Idea Kit contains event planning tips, anti-graffiti classroom activities, newsletter ads, as well as graffiti removal suggestions and resources. Graffiti Wipe Out Week posters are also available.

Anyone who participates in Wipe Out Week is encouraged to submit plans to the GRTF. One submission will be randomly selected to receive a $500 gift certificate donated by Canadian Tire. More information can be found on the City's website: www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca (Community Services Department).

For more details please call the Graffiti Wipe Out Week information line at 975-3383.

The GRTF thanks the Saskatoon Catholic School Board, and Bishop Pocock School, for their assistance in launching Graffiti Wipe Out Week.

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For more information:
Shannon Hanson
Graffiti Reduction Task Force
Community Services Department
975-3181

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